

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 669
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Hamilton High
School 30th Class Unity Weekend.

WHEREAS, it is the great pleasure of this General Assembly to honor and congratulate those graduates of Tennessee public schools, both past and present, who have brought great honor and acclaim to the State of Tennessee through their professional successes and magnificent exploits; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton High School's Class of 1973 is one such worthy group of individuals, who recently celebrated their 30th Class Unity Weekend May 23-25, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the largest ever graduating class from Hamilton High School at 549 graduates, the 1973 class was also the last class of the original Hamilton High School on Wilson Street in Memphis, and was the first class to graduate from the school's present location on Person Avenue; and

WHEREAS, a great many of the members of the 1973 graduating class of Hamilton High School have gone on to achieve great things in life, truly making proud the City of Memphis and the State of Tennessee; and

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WHEREAS, the Senior Class President, Emerick Woods, currently resides in California, where he continues to represent his 549 classmates with dignity, intellect, and sophistication; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland "Danny" Elliott, Student Council President, continues to be an activist and spokesman in the Memphis community, raising the consciousness of the simple and remaining prudent in all matters; and

WHEREAS, Debra Littlejohn, the Class Reunion President, has been an active leader during the last several reunions and continues to unite and inspire the members of the Class of 1973; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being named "Miss Hamilton 1973" and "Most Talented in the Senior Class," Pamala Fay Jones Taylor-Dickerson has gone on to earn many other accolades in her post-high school life; after graduating from the University of Tennessee at Martin, she served 36 years as a music teacher; was the first African American to place in the Miss UTM pageant in 1975; is a 20-year veteran of the Memphis City Schools; was a volunteer music teacher/show choir coordinator for "The Delano Movement," "The Rozelle Creative and Performing Arts Show Choir," and "The Hanley Show Choir," as well as several other choirs, aimed at helping children develop self-esteem and confidence; recorded theme songs for World Wrestling Federation entertainers Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes and Ted "The Million Dollar Man" Debeosie; composed and recorded campaign songs for Memphis Mayor Dr. W.W. Herenton; was the personal accompanist for the late Reverend Oris Lee Mays and the Reverend Arnold Dwight "Gaitmouth" Moore; received the Memphis Living Legend Award in 2003; and was inducted into the University of Tennessee at Martin Black Alumni Hall of Fame in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Stanley Shotwell, "Mr. Hamilton," a member of the Memphis Police Department, has provided successful security services for several Memphis churches, and he attends the Seventh Day Adventist Church with his family; also an exceptional musician,

Stanley has instilled his love of music in his children, and his son, Keynon Shotwell, was recently nominated for the “Premier Player Award Choir of the Year”; and

WHEREAS, Gale Jones Carson is the 2003 Reunion Activities Chairperson and is an ardent journalist and former Federal Express publicist; the founder of the “Father of the Year” Award, Ms. Carson has served as a State Democratic Executive Committee Woman, 2001-2003 Shelby County Democratic Chairperson, and the Executive Assistant to Memphis Mayor Dr. W.W. Herenton; and

WHEREAS, Elder and Mrs. William Wright selflessly opened the doors of their church, Liberty Church of God in Christ, to ensure that the Hamilton High School reunion would be a remarkable success; and

WHEREAS, in addition to recognizing the achievements of graduates such as these, it is appropriate to pause and remember those graduates of Hamilton High School, Class of 1973, who have gone on to their great reward: Debra Atkins, Beverly Bailey, Patricia Briggs, Reginald Curry, Christine Edwards, Debra Gathright, Jennifer Gilstrap, Rudy Gregory, Ray Gunn, Ronald Gunn, Evelyn Harris, Lewis Harris, Novell Hightower, Robert Huges, Ronald Jackson, Barbara Jamerson, Joe Johnson, James Lanier, Larry Lurks, Gwendolyn Martin, Carl Merriweather, Edward Morris, Beverly Payne, Shedrick Prewitt, William Reeves, Ray Simpson, Gary Spragland, James Thomas, II, Charlie Townsend, Carl White, Joseph Wilson, and Dennis Young; and

WHEREAS, the exceptional members of the 1973 graduating class of Hamilton High School have set a fine example for all Tennesseans to follow; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor them for their many achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize the Hamilton High School Class of 1973 Class

Unity Weekend, celebrate with them their fortunes, and wish them many more happy reunions to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.